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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 A method and apparatus prioritizing video information during coding and decoding.
2 Video information is received and an element of the video information, such as a visual object,
3 video object layer, video object plane or keyregion, is identified. A priority is assigned to the
4 identified element and the video information is encoded into a bitstream, such as a visual
5 bitstream encoded using the MPEG-4 standard, including an indication of the priority of the
6 element. The priority information can then be used when decoding the bitstream to reconstruct
7 the video information.

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